

Arafat recovering, receives visitors

TUNIS (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was recovering Friday from a throat infection that had raised concern about his health when he is grappling with problems in establishing Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. Mr. Arafat fell ill Wednesday, and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials and diplomats at first said doctors were contemplating flying him to Jordan for treatment. But visitors said the 64-year-old PLO chairman appeared to be getting better and resumed some of his duties Friday. Among his appointments was a two-hour interview and lunch with television anchorman Dan Rather of the American network CBS. The interview had been set for Wednesday, but was cancelled when Mr. Arafat was taken to Tunis hospital for a medical checkup after feeling tired and ailing. "He looked good and energetic, but had a slight cough," Mr. Rather told the Associated Press. Mr. Rather said Arafat's wife, Suha, attended the session and that the PLO chief mocked her English because of a remark she made Thursday saying he had "angina," which could mean a heart condition.

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Iraqi Baathists get powers to curb

powers to curb

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein, who has taken personal charge of sanctions-locked Iraq's government, is mobilising members of his ruling Baath Party in the fight against soaring prices and runaway inflation. State-run newspapers reported on Friday that President Saddam had authorised party branches and divisions to send shopkeepers and traders who violate government price guidelines to jail — powers normally exercised by the police and judiciary. Baghdad traders said President Saddam, who took over the job of prime minister on Monday, had been touring markets in his field marshal's uniform, talking to ordinary people and merchants about ways of reducing prices. A young, infighting government-determined prices faces jail terms of up to one year. If they offend again they risk losing their licence and having their shops closed.

That police arrest

Iranian suspect

BANGKOK (AP) — Thai police said they arrested Friday one of the Iraqis suspected of a role in an attempt to car-bomb the Israeli embassy in Bangkok last March. Authorities said they seized Hussein Sharif, 25, a day after he entered the southern town of Hat Yai from Malaysia. He was flown to Bangkok on Friday and produced at a police news conference. Police launched a hunt for two Iraqis after they uncovered a gigantic homemade bomb in a truck that had been involved in an accident near the Israeli embassy on March 11.

U.S. plans sanctions

against El Al

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government's Department of Transportation is moving to cut the number of flights the Israeli airline El Al is allowed in the United States because Israel is refusing to allow World Airways, an American firm, to serve Tel Aviv. Proposed sanctions against El Al were announced Thursday by the department, to take effect June 22. On that date El Al would be required to reduce its New York-Tel Aviv service by three flights per week. The airline has a week to object to the sanctions. World, based in Herndon, Virginia, had planned to institute three weekly flights on that route starting June 29, but was refused by the Israeli government. With the proposed reduction, El Al would be limited to 17 weekly flights from New York to Tel Aviv and 15 flights from Tel Aviv to New York, down from 20 and 18.

Israel gets

500,000th ex-Soviet

immigrant

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The 500,000th immigrant to arrive from the former Soviet Union since the floodgates opened in 1989 slipped unnoticed into Israel this week, the government's central bureau of statistics said Friday. The person was not identified by the bureau which noted that recent immigrants from the old Soviet empire now account for 10 per cent of Israel's population. Among the newcomers, 57,000 are qualified engineers, 12,000 doctors or dentists, 12,000 nurses and 12,000 musicians or writers. However, most have failed to find work to suit their qualifications.

Blast kills 3 in San

Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Three men were killed and at least four other people were injured late Thursday when an explosion wrecked a three-story building here showering debris over a wide area. The explosion, which fire department officials say may have been caused by a natural gas leak, sent flames leaping into the night sky above the city's Tenderloin district. It took an hour to contain the blaze.

Yemenis accept U.N. call, but continue war

Combined agency dispatches

RIVAL YEMENI army units fought an artillery battle near the southern stronghold of Aden on Friday, despite both sides' acceptance of a U.N. Security Council call for a ceasefire.

The duel took place around the village of Lahj, around 30 kilometres north of Aden, a day after troops loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh edged closer to this port city, reports

Southern anti-aircraft guns in Aden also went into action, but no missile or bomb explosion was heard.

Mr. Saleh's northern forces have mounted "fierce offensives on all fronts, destroying villages and killing civilians," charged the southern command of the president's rival, Ali Salem Al Beidh.

"We are resisting with all our strength to protect our land and our honour," it said.

The south also renewed a charge that Iraqi soldiers were fighting alongside the northerners. Five Iraqis were captured in the oil region of Shabwa, 300 kilometres northeast of Aden, it said.

Mr. Beidh's self-declared Yemeni Democratic Republic also renewed its acceptance of Security Council Resolution 924 calling for a ceasefire in the month-long civil war.

(QNA).

Under the ceasefire mission, the former Algerian foreign minister is in charge of a U.N. fact-finding mission to Yemen.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak telephoned both Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh asking them to call a halt to the fighting, Cairo Radio reported.

He called them late Thursday and urged them to withdraw their forces from the combat zones as a first step towards resolving the crisis.

"This separatist act aims only to torpedo the efforts underway to restore security and stability in our nation in line with Security Council 924," the spokesman said.

Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad also called the Yemeni rivals on Thursday urging them to settle their differences.

Political and diplomatic sources in Sanaa said the northern government has sent fresh troops, estimated at up to five brigades, to fronts around Aden.

Northern forces have fired at least four missiles at Aden since the truce call and advanced along fronts further east.

A senior northern official, meanwhile, welcomed the appointment of Lakhdar Ibrahim as U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali's special envoy to Yemen.

Mr. Ibrahim is a "respected Arab figure and capable of carrying out this mission," Abdul Aziz Ahmad Ghani, a member of the presidential council, said in an interview with the Qatari News Agency

(Continued on page 5)

Israel masses troops for possible strike at Lebanon

Tension mounts, peace process threatened after Israeli raid kills 50

Combined agency dispatches

COLUMNS OF Israeli tanks and artillery deployed along the northern border Friday, prepared to strike at resistance forces in Lebanon if they renewed Katyusha rocket attacks on Israel.

The violence, ignited by an Israeli air raid a day earlier, strained a 10-month ceasefire and Middle East peace talks.

After a night in bomb shelters and secure rooms, hundreds of civilians fled southern Lebanon and Israelis in droves cancelled weekend bookings at northern resorts.

The exodus began after Israel responded to the dozens of Katyusha rockets fired overnight with howitzers. Its fighters swooped low over southern Lebanon, sonic booms

echoing across the hills.

U.N. spokesman Timur Goksel said one Hizbullah fighter was killed and two Palestinian peacekeepers were wounded, one seriously, in three firefights in southern Lebanon. The U.N. maintains a 5,250-member peacekeeping force in the region.

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(Continued on page 5)

Hizbullah plots revenge against Israel, page 2

Gaza police chief vows to nab 'collaborator' killers

Combined agency dispatches

GAZA (Agencies) — The Palestinian police chief in the Gaza self-rule area vowed on Friday to capture militants who killed two suspected collaborators with Israel last week.

"(I swear) by God, I will bring them in even if this costs me 100 martyrs," Major-General Nasr Yousef said.

He praised the Islamic Hamas movement for undertaking to stop the killing of informants but said the group seemed unable to control all its members.

"We are willing to live with any behaviour so long as there is no bloodshed," Gen. Yousef told a public meeting.

Hamas men killed Abdul Wahab Radi and Husam Doush in Gaza City on May 27, accusing them of collaborating and killing Palestinians.

The killing, the first since Palestinian policemen took control of the Gaza Strip, has become a test of wills between Hamas and the Palestinian authority backed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mahmoud Al Zahhar, an Islamic known for close ties to

Hamas, said the police demands were not acceptable.

"Those people are not killers and thus pursuing them is wrong," Mr. Zahhar said. "This thing happened while the police did not complete building of its institutions."

Gen. Yousef stressed that the police were in favour of political pluralism and invited Hamas members to join the Palestinian forces.

"We have asked our brothers in the nationalist and Islamic political groups, those who carried weapons (against the occupation) to join the national security forces."

He said only a few responded to the call.

Gaza militants have threatened a PLO official with violence for saying they lacked discipline and were unfit to be policemen, Israel Radio reported.

Sufian Abu Zaideh had said that he sacked 70 local recruits to the Palestinian police force because they could not meet

(Continued on page 5)

Gaza police 'overworked,' 'under-equipped,' page 10

Jerusalem issue could spark war — expert

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli former head of intelligence warned Friday that rival Arab and Israeli claims to Jerusalem could lead to a "jihad."

Yehoshafat Harkabi, quoted by the Yedioth Ahronot daily, said Israel could not keep hold of East Jerusalem, which it seized in 1967, indefinitely.

He said: "Those who think Jerusalem will stay under Israeli control are fooling themselves because we have to take account of its importance for Christians and Muslims. That could plunge us into war."

"If there is any subject capable of provoking jihad, it is Jerusalem, and our attitude could create all the right conditions for it. I find it difficult to believe the Arabs, and not just the Palestinians, would accept to have no part of Jerusalem."

Mr. Harkabi, head of military intelligence between 1955

(Continued on page 5)

Gaza police 'overworked,' 'under-equipped,' page 10



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are received upon their return home Friday by

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad and other members of the Royal Family (Petra photo)

King, Queen return home

By Ayman Al Safadi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home on Friday after a two-week private visit to Britain.

The King is expected to leave Jordan for the United States June 16 where he will hold talks with President Bill Clinton on the Middle East peace process, especially the Jordanian track of the negotiations.

Sources expected the Jordanian-U.S. summit to be held in Washington some time between June 16 and 24 when the King will be in the United States for his final annual medical check up at Mayo Clinic.

The King will from now on have annual check-ups at the clinic, where he underwent successful surgery in 1992.

Jordanian sources said the negotiations have been bogged down because of Israel's refusal to discuss issues that Jordan believes should proceed talks of regional economic cooperation and development.

They said Israel wants to discuss regional development

before first agreeing to demarcate its borders with the Kingdom, something which Jordan categorically rejects.

Israel also wants to sign a peace deal with the Kingdom before settling the issues on the agenda. But Jordan insists the Jewish state withdraw from occupied Jordanian land and return its share in the waters of Jordan and Yarmouk rivers before any peace deal is concluded.

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2 Middle East News

Hizbollahis plot revenge against Israel after strike

BEIRUT (R) — Hizbollah guerrillas, rallying to their war cry of victory or martyrdom, will soon launch a series of attacks against Israel to avenge the bloodiest single blow they received in 12 years of struggle, Muslim sources said.

Israeli aircraft blasted a Hizbollah training camp in the eastern Bekaa Valley early on Thursday, killing at least 26 guerrillas and wounding 70.

It was the highest toll in a single Israeli raid suffered by the Shiite Muslim group formed after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

"It is painful, it is heartbreaking," a Hizbollah official told Reuters. "We are not used to suffering such a high toll or giving away such an easy victory to Israel."

"But this is war, one day is for you, another is against you," the official, who requested anonymity, said.

Muslim sources said Hizbollah was preparing for a series of attacks against Israeli targets not just in South Lebanon but elsewhere.

"They are preparing for a series of qualitative attacks that will not be restricted to South Lebanon," he said, without elaboration.

Hizbollah leaders said last month after helicopter-borne Israeli commandos abducted a guerrilla leader from his home in the Bekaa Valley that the confrontation with the Jewish state would now be expanded beyond South Lebanon.

Hizbollah guerrillas fired salvoes of Katyusha rockets into northern Israel after the air raid, defying stern Israeli warnings of harsh retaliation.

Israel, which moved armoured columns to its border with Lebanon late on Thursday, said the barrages violated "understandings" that ended a week-long air, land and sea blitz of South Lebanon last July.

The blitz, in which 150 people, mostly civilians, died, ended after U.S. mediation led to a vote by Israel and Hizbollah not to attack civilian targets.

Hizbollah has claimed that no understandings were reached but refrained from rocketing northern Israel until Thursday.

The name "Hizbollah" com-

es from a verse in the Holy Koran — "The Party of God, they are victorious."

Inspired by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution in Iran, the group seeks an end to the state of Israel and to curb western influence in Lebanon.

Hizbollah emerged in Lebanon after the 1982 invasion when some 2,000 Iranian Revolutionary Guards moved to the mainly Shiite Bekaa Valley to drive the Israelis out of the country in every society."

The president also told a group of American seminarians that he and the Pope "talked about the upcoming conference in Cairo on world population problems... and how we could come together on a policy that would promote responsible growth of the world's population and still reaffirm our common commitment for the central role of the family in every society."

The following is a transcript of Mr. Clinton's remarks, as released by the White House:

"We had a wonderful discussion about a large number of things. I'm always amazed to find him so vigorously involved in the affairs of the world."

"We talked about the difficulties in Bosnia, as you might imagine. We talked a lot about Poland and Eastern Europe. We talked at some length about Russia and our emerging relationships there. We talked quite a long while about Asia, about the need to protect religious freedoms in Asian countries, and to promote that.

"And I pledged to the pope my best efforts to work with other nations, especially nations in Asia in the cause of religious freedom.

"But with the 1982 invasion, they began to strike back and tormented the West and Israel with suicide bombings against Western interests, hostage-taking and assassinations.

"Suicide truck bombings killed more than 60 people at the U.S. embassy in April 1983. In October of the same year, 241 U.S. servicemen and 58 French paratroopers were killed in suicide bombings of their headquarters.

"Fundamentalist sources put the number of Hizbollah fighters at 5,000 and 10,000 followers. The group, armed and financed by Iran, is run by a 12-man leadership, shura or advisory council.

"Among all groups in the Arab World, Hizbollah is the

most relentlessly opposed to the U.S.-sponsored peace process between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Hizbollah stepped up its raids against Israeli forces as the peace talks began in October 1991 and has escalated its attacks with each subsequent meeting of Arab-Israeli negotiations.

"For those of you who are American seminarians here, I would like to say a special word of appreciation for the role of the Catholic Church in our country. There are 20,000 parishes, 9,000 Catholic

elementary and high schools, over 200 Catholic colleges and universities, one of which gave me a degree a long time ago. The thing I have always revered about the Catholic Church was the sense of constancy and commitment of the church in our national life; sense of putting one's life, one's money, one's time where one's stated ideas are.

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"We talked about the challenges presented at the moment by the dispute we're having with North Korea. We talked at great length about the role of the Islamic states in the future of the world and — not only in the Middle East, but elsewhere. We talked a lot about the Middle East, and I thanked His Holiness for the recognition that the Holy See has given to Israel and the support to the peace process.

"We talked about the up-

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Clinton, Pope discuss Middle East

VATICAN CITY (USA) — President Bill Clinton says he and Pope John Paul held talks on a wide range of subjects on Thursday 2, including the Middle East, Bosnia, North Korea, Poland and Eastern Europe, and "the need to protect religious freedoms in Asian countries."

The president also told a group of American seminarians that he and the Pope "talked about the upcoming conference in Cairo on world population problems... and how we could come together on a policy that would promote responsible growth of the world's population and still reaffirm our common commitment for the central role of the family in every society."

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U.S. President Bill Clinton with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican on Thursday (AFP photo)

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achieve a level of integrity between what we feel and what we think and what we do. And I stand here today to tell you that, as an American president, I am immensely proud of the commitment you have made.

Hillary and I have a friend whom we treasure greatly who is a Jesuit priest who I met over 30 years ago, who went to law school with us later and who continues to labor to fulfill his vocation. And one of my most treasured possessions and I even received from a personal friend was a letter that he wrote to us after he had been a priest for 20 years, explaining without being at all self-righteous what it had meant to him to have kept his vocation for two decades and why he thought in a way he had lived a selfish life because he had achieved a measure of peace and comfort and energy that he could have found in no other way.

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Gunfire, burning tyres outside U.N. in Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali gangs loosed off anti-aircraft guns and burned tyres outside Mogadishu's U.N.-protected airport and port on Thursday, residents said.

The latest display of apparent defiance from armed Somalis was put on just three days after the Security Council gave the country another chance at restoring peace by keeping 19,000 U.N. troops there for four months longer.

In the troubled southern port of Kismayu, warlords who led the country into clan feuding, famine and disease three years ago quarrelled at yet another round of peace talks brokered by the United Nations.

Machine-gunfire echoed around Mogadishu and black plumes of smoke rose into the sky from morning after truck drivers hired city youths to protest against new port tariffs introduced at the U.N.-managed facility.

The U.N. wants the tariffs to help the port finance itself, but when ever it has tried to introduce them in recent months, the truck drivers have prevented a return to the days when they were taxed before the government collapsed in January 1991.

Other youths were mobilised by metal scrap dealers to protest at a decree issued by warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed that they should not be allowed to export from areas under his control.

Scrap metal was big business in Somalia during the clan wars, when looters tore down everything from the factories built with Western aid money to the bronze statues of Somali heroes.

The man widely blamed for most of the looting was Osman Hassan Ali "Ato" — the thin one — who is General Aideed's right hand man and financier.

Gen. Aideed's militia radio also banned the exports of charcoal, which is responsible for much of the deforestation in the arid country, and female goats — which Somalis traditionally do not like selling because they want to maintain breeding stock.

"SNA (Aideed's Somali National Alliance) members, police and port authorities are all required to seize such things as scrap metal, she goats and charcoal. Handle them with great care and then bring the perpetrators to a court of law," said Gen. Aideed's broadcast by radio.

Gen. Aideed, whose militias battled U.S. troops on the streets of Mogadishu and caused Western forces to pull out in last March, arrived back in May after months abroad and apparently wants to establish a de facto government in his areas.

He has been unable to reach agreement with his many rivals despite an accord much-publicised by the U.N. in March which promised a series of talks to set up a new government.

In Kismayu, tensions mounted as Ogaden clan warlords Aden Abdullahi Nur "Gahio" — "The poet" — and Ahmad Omar Jess condemned peace talks opened by the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) last week.

The militias of Mr. Gahio and Mr. Jess fought a series of bloody feuds for control of Kismayu town and the fertile hinterland, but have recently ended relations.

In U.N.-brokered deals, the clans were supposed to agree that the Ogadens would take control of the farming lands outside Kismayu.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Majali reiterates respect, support for a free press

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali reiterated the government's respect for a free press, saying that this right, is guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution and the National Charter.

In a message to Mahmoud Al Kayed, chairman of the board of directors of the Jordan Press Foundation (Al Ra'i) and the Jordan Times

newspapers), the prime minister said the government is committed to ensuring free expression and to upholding the principles of democracy which have been enhanced by His Majesty King Hussein's policies and wise leadership.

In his message to Mr. Kayed, marking the 24th anniversary of Al Ra'i Arabic daily, Dr. Majali said the press, which is the "fourth

estate," plays a key role in creating necessary national public awareness, fostering and enhancing the sense of national belonging among the public and serving national and pan-Arab objectives.

The press can and should assist the legislative and executive authorities with their tasks by highlighting the facts and the accomplishments and also by helping to safeguard

the higher national interests," added Dr. Majali.

Expressing his appreciation of Al Ra'i's efforts over the past 24 years and the journalists' endeavours to serve their nation, the prime minister voiced hope that the daily newspaper would pursue greater efforts for far greater achievements in the future.

Writers', journalists' unions condemn refusal to hold ceremony for assassinated colleague

By Karonza Jadoun
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The cancellation of a ceremony to commemorate the late Jordanian journalist, Hanna Muqbel, came as a surprise to cultural milieus in Amman.

Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation was to host the symposium last Monday, but as regulations stipulate, it first had to request the permission of the Interior Ministry. The foundation received a refusal from the Amman Governorate three days before the scheduled date of the ceremony.

"We received the decision, but no reasons were provided," Basem Khouri, an employee at the foundation said.

The Union of Arab Writers (UAW), the Union of Arab Journalists (UAJ) and the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA), the organiser of the symposium, condemned the decision as groundless and issued a statement to this effect.

UAW Secretary General Fakhri Kawa told the Jordan Times that he spoke to the governor, but was given no reason for the decision.

JWA President Mu'nis Razzaz said he wrote to the interior minister to complain of the decision, but also to no avail.

"Not a single reason was given. It is a position we are not comfortable with. Supposedly, holding a ceremony of this kind is something normal," Mr. Kawa said.

Director of the Arab Writers Union Nazih Abu Nidal said the late journalist, a leftist and pan-Arabist, was the secretary general of the Arab Journalists Union and of Jordanian nationality, "so it is normal for his relatives, friends and colleagues to commemorate him."

"There was another ceremony to commemorate the late Jordanian writer Mahmoud Seif Addin Al Iraji, just a day before our scheduled event, and it was not cancelled," Mr. Abu Nidal said.

Mr. Razzaz condemned the decision and said that the late "well-known" journalist and His Majesty King Hussein himself expressed his condolences over his death. Hanna has so many admirers, that's why we expected so many fans and chose Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation instead of the JWA hall to hold the ceremony."

Mr. Razzaz told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview that he was astonished, adding that this is the first time he

knows of that a request from Shoman Foundation to hold such an event was refused.

"Yet," he added, "there were dozens of occasions when other governors act in the same way. That is why we issued a statement to protest such anti-democratic acts."

Amman Governor Tal'at Nawaiesh told the Jordan Times "there is no reason to commemorate someone after 10 years. Furthermore, anniversaries are only for national occasions."

When told that the UAW, the UAJ and the JWA condemned the refusal, he said that "it was not them who asked for the permission, it was Abdul Hameed (Shoman) Foundation."

As for the Ministry of Interior, its secretary general, Khalil Khreisat, said that the ministry had no idea about the issue.

"An Amman Governorate is against all martyrs of word who defend human rights for freedom and life... it is a reward for the assassin, to halt us from condemning the bloody violence against intellectuals," the unions' statement said.

Mr. Zreikat told the Jordan Times that Ministry of Culture Secretary General Muhammad Naji Al Amraieh promised that the symposium will be held at a later date.

U.S. dollar stabilises in market

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The U.S. dollar stabilised in the local market at around 702-703 fils last week after a several-year high of 712 fils last month partly attributed to a clamour for dollars against the dinar in the occupied territories and to an international strengthening of the American

back in the international market.

But dealers sold the dollar for up to 712 fils in mid-May, hiking the rate in line with the world surge in the American currency after the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, increased interest rates, followed by Germany.

Differences between the rates in the Amman market and the occupied territories were negligible, dealers said.

Economic analysts said Jordanian commercial banks operating in the occupied territories had the situation under control and could easily meet the market demand there without straining themselves.

The official rate, set by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) on a daily basis, remained within the 698-702 fils range throughout the period despite a strengthening of the green-

public as long as it is available with them.

Licensed moneychangers, who are free to quote their prices within an acceptable level of margin from the CBJ set prices, said the dollar's rise came during the second week of May and remained at 710-712 fils level until the last week of the month when the market appetite was aptly whetted.

The situation is quite normal now," said a dealer, noting that the trend among moneychangers in the first few days of the boost was more towards buying than selling, reflecting expectations that the currency was on its way up much higher.

The closing quote for the

U.S. dollar on Thursday was 702-704 fils at the moneychangers.

In downtown Amman,

where solo small-time operators buy and sell foreign cur-

rency in the streets, the rate ranged from 705 fils to 710 fils.

In general, bankers said there was no scarcity of foreign exchange in the market and CBJ intervention was not warranted at any point.

The CBJ, as a rule, does not intervene in the market but keeps a close watch on movement. Officials have said that as long as the difference between the officially set rate and the rate quoted by moneychangers in the open market is limited to a few percentage points, there will not be any CBJ intervention.

The currency black market which thrived during 1989 and 1990 is virtually non-existent. A few operators here and there do deal in foreign exchange, but always under some kind of arrangement with licensed moneychangers for legal cover.

UNRWA ends 2-day donor-host meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Peace Implementation Programme (PIP) is already showing tangible results, especially in the Gaza Strip, where socio-economic conditions are so precarious, according to UNRWA Commissioner-General Iltar Turmen.

Messrs. Kawa, Razzaz, Abu Nidal and Zreikat, as well as Naji Aloush, Rashad Abu Shawer and Mr. Muqbel's daughter, Salam, were scheduled to speak at the ceremony.

The speakers expressed their regret saying that such a decision to refuse permission to hold the symposium is not in harmony with democratic aspirations.

"This negative attitude is against all martyrs of word who defend human rights for freedom and life... it is a reward for the assassin, to halt us from condemning the bloody violence against intellectuals," the unions' statement said.

Mr. Zreikat told the Jordan Times that Ministry of Culture Secretary General Muhammad Naji Al Amraieh promised that the symposium will be held at a later date.

Interior minister meets with Iraqi president in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Thursday conferred in Baghdad with visiting Jordanian Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad following official talks between Mr. Hammad and his Iraqi counterpart Wataban Al Hassan concerning bilateral cooperation in security affairs.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Mr. Hammad later as saying that Jordan's support for the Iraqi people was an expression of solidarity in the face of the current circumstances.

the Iraqi people and Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, said the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra quoted Mr. Al Hassan as describing Jordan's stand as honourable, and the Iraqi-Jordanian relations as distinguished in all fields.

Mr. Hammad, who was accompanied on the trip to Iraq by a delegation from his own ministry and the Public Security Department (PSD) returned to Amman Friday evening.

Health Ministry turns back JD 500,000 coffee import

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Health Ministry last week aborted an attempt by a local merchant to market JD 500,000 of contaminated coffee beans in the Kingdom and forced a vessel laden with the merchandise to leave Aqaba harbour.

Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas told the Jordan Times Friday that the merchant, whose name he declined to release, had tried all means and various forms of pressure on the government to bring in the shipment.

"We had examined a sample of the coffee beans at our main laboratories in Aqaba; the beans had very bad smell, and were found to be contaminated. The lab issued a certificate urging the port authorities not to allow the shipment to be unloaded," Dr. Malhas said.

The ministry regularly examines samples of all types of food entering the country, has intensified inspections recently, assisted by the modern laboratory facilities in the port city, the minister said, who added that the coffee bean shipment would have been sufficient for Jordan's needs for at least six months.

The local authorities last month announced a 280 fils

per kilogramme hike in the price of coffee in Jordan because of the rise in prices on the world market, said the minister. He added that it is in such a climate, when prices rise and commodities are in short supply, that the so-called "garbage market" thrives, with some merchants seeking to market contaminated merchandise and earning a fortune in the process.

Dr. Malhas said that at one stage he had to send a sample of the rejected shipment together with the laboratory report to the Prime Ministry in order to make his point clear to the prime minister and the government, who had been exposed to enormous pressure on the part of where they live."

During the meeting, representatives attending the Working Group on UNRWA's financing discussed the agency's 1994 shortfall in its regular budget and suggested action UNRWA might take to reduce the deficit, said an UNRWA statement, without elaborating.

Mr. Turmen had earlier reported that the agency's projected 1994 deficit of \$21 million in its regular budget assumed that the agency maintained the cutbacks imposed in 1993 and did not allow for any growth in services in 1994.

He explained to representatives that "in order for UNRWA to meet long-standing performance targets and ensure that the quality of services remains stable in the coming years," the agency needed \$21 million to avoid draining its working capital in 1994 and an additional \$22 million to maintain the standard of UNRWA services, making a total budget deficit of \$43 million for 1994.

It was discovered, said Dr. Malhas, that the shipment had originated in Jordan where the paste was first produced in 1992. But the product had spoiled because of unorthodox storage facilities or perhaps due to the heat, according to Dr. Malhas.

He said the shipment was destined for an importer in Jordan who, after examining the samples, selected part of the merchandise and returned the rest to Aqaba.

When asked about measures to start Saturday monitoring water springs and water tanks, selling drinking water, the minister said that the process will continue intensively, until the end of June. But, he said, the health authorities will continue spot checks throughout the year.

The head of the Health Department in the Amman area, Oais Halakewi, had told the Jordan Times that a similar campaign launched last April found 28 water tanker owners in violation of safety standards. But the minister Friday said that the number of violators had risen to 35 by end of last week.

Those and other violators are fined, but stricter measures could be imposed and their licences could be revoked should the violation be repeated, explained the minister.

German state minister ends visit Talks centre on bolstering economy

AMMAN (J.T.) — A German delegation, led by Dieter Spori, minister of economic affairs in the state of Baden Wurttemberg, Friday concluded a three-day visit to Jordan and left for home.

Upon ending his talks with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Thursday, Dr. Spori said he has reiterated Germany's determination to continue to provide the Kingdom with all forms of assistance and to further bolster bilateral relations, especially in tourism and economic affairs.

"I also voiced Bonn's intention to exert efforts through the European Union for the allocation of more European economic assistance to Jordanian development schemes," said the state minister.

He said that in talks with Jordanian ministers over the past two days the two sides agreed on matters related to the transfer of modern technology from German institutions to small and medium size Jordanian projects, and agreed to maintain open channels of communication between both countries' firms and business executives.

The German state minister and his team had earlier met with Minister of Industry and

Trade Rima Khalaf and Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and discussed Jordanian-German economic and trade links.

Dr. Khalaf was reported by

the Jordan News Agency, Petra,

as proposing the creation of

a higher German-Jordanian business council that could channel information and help exchange ideas about investment projects in Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON FILMS

EXHIBITIONS

- * Chinese film entitled "People, Spirits, and Emotions" at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.
- * Photography exhibit entitled "Faces of Jordan" at the Americana Center.
- * Exhibition by artist Issam Tantawi at Balq' Art Gallery in Fubais (Tel. 720677).
- * Exhibition by artist Abeer Bawab at the Royal Cultural Centre.



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Court for the constitution

THE ISSUE of whether the Pharmacists Association is constitutional or not is currently under review at the Higher Court of Justice. Another issue, whether forming a teachers' union would be constitutional or not, is being reviewed by another body, the Higher Council. This confusion has arisen from the fact that Jordan has no independent judicial constitutional court, like the case is in other countries, for example Egypt.

The former legal issue, that of the Pharmacists Association, surfaced when the union filed a case against the Minister of Health for his handling of government-employed pharmacists. The minister reacted by contesting the constitutionality of the association itself. According to the Minister of Justice, Taher Hikmat, Jordan's Higher Court of Justice does not look into the constitutionality of laws per se, rather, it looks into decisions that are issued under law that can be unconstitutional. Mr. Hikmat had said in an article published in November 1992 that the court, therefore, "would only contest the decision or the procedure issued in accordance to a law that contradicts the constitution." The court, Mr. Hikmat concluded, cannot annul a valid law, even if it concluded that it was unconstitutional.

The second body that can decide if a law is constitutional or not is the Higher Council. This council is made up of nine members, four senators and five most senior judges. For it to pass resolutions, the council needs a majority of six votes. This council is entrusted, in addition to trying ministers for any wrongdoing while serving in office, to "the interpretation of the articles of the constitution if required to by the Cabinet or a majority decision by any of the two Houses of Parliament."

When the last parliament demanded the government legislate for forming a teacher's union, the government, fearful of a political group dominating the association, asked the council to rule whether a teachers' union was constitutional or not. The council met then but its vote was split five to four on the issue, thus failing to reach a decision.

The issue of whether trade unions should be involved in politics has resurfaced since the Prime Minister, Abdul Salam Majali, took office last year. The constitution does not explicitly state that Jordan can form unions. But it does state, in article 16, that Jordanians have the right to form societies and political parties.

Constitutional experts, including the former Chief Justice Najib Rashdan, believe the term societies does include trade and professional unions. He argues that the right had been acquired since the first trade union was established in the 1950s.

The controversy though points to the need of a new formula to settle all disputes relating to the subject, most appropriately through a constitutional amendment.

The higher council as it is made up now, though constitutional, is not judicial. The fact that four out of its nine members are senators makes it half political and half judicial. That seems to necessitate the creation of constitutional court or entrusting this task to the Higher Court of Justice. That, though, requires a constitutional amendment, which is not, unfortunately, about to be enacted.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour strongly criticised a decision for moving the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) from Amman to Beirut as an unjustified action resulting from a hostile political stand on the part of certain Arab states. Taher Al Adwan said that it is true that the decision was taken by a majority vote, but that vote was that of those states which harbour enmity towards the Kingdom for its national and neutral stand during the Gulf crisis. During its stay in Amman, ESCWA proved that it is far better functioning in the Kingdom than elsewhere in the Arab states largely due to the stability and security which this country enjoys, he said. Amman has proved to be the most eligible venue for various regional and international agencies as it lies in the heart of the Arab World and continues to host and to provide services to numerous organisations, continued Adwan. For this reason, said the writer, Jordan deserves support not enmity for its national stand vis-à-vis the Israeli designs and for its continued support and help to the Palestinian people.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily urged the concerned authorities to widen the Amman-Madaba road so as to cater to the ever growing volume of traffic and prevent road accidents. Nazif Qousai said that the road was built years ago when a relatively small number of vehicles was using it, but with the vast developments in economic, transport and social fields in the areas between Amman and Madaba and in the light of the increased traffic along the road between the two cities, the time has come for the local authorities to think about ways to ease traffic congestion and widen the road, said the writer. He said over the past year tragic accidents occurred on this road with heavy loss of life and property. He said the Ministries of Tourism and Transport ought to join hands with the Ministry of Public Works to ensure the implementation of this very vital project that would positively contribute towards the development of the regions in the southern Amman areas.

Jordanian Perspective

A setback in the making

By Dr. Musa Kellani

THE WAR of words over Palestinian self-rule and the status of Jerusalem between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is the best indicator yet of the numerous well-known problems that the two sides will have to confront and settle before it could be said that the Arabs and the Israelis are on their way to a just, comprehensive and durable peace. But what we Muslims and Christians risk in the meantime is a further setback in our quest for our rights in Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin's persistent attacks and criticism of the way Mr. Arafat and his aides in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have been building Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho reflect an anxiety to ensure that the PLO-orchestrated autonomy falls very much in line with Israeli designs. Obviously the Israeli prime minister is seeking to preempt any success of the autonomy beyond the limitations set by Israel with a view of diluting the international impressions of Palestinian abilities to take care of themselves in the long run.

Among the factors that help Mr. Rabin and his Labour Party in achieving that objective is the split in the Palestinian ranks and the way the PLO leadership is handling self-rule. Mr. Rabin's pointed reminders of Palestinian shortcomings in the autonomy arrangements are not helpful suggestions directed at Mr. Arafat and the PLO inasmuch as they are a message to the international community that it is only a matter of time the Palestinians fall flat on their face while grappling with their newfound but limited freedoms in Gaza and Jericho and prove to be a burden for donors.

The Israeli strategy, played out in public as well as behind the diplomatic scene, has already firmed up delays in the channelling of international financial assistance to the Palestinians. And this does not exactly bode well for the Israeli desire to let the Palestinians see tangible improvements in their standards of living. The net result of the Israeli move could very well end up in a dismal failure of the "self-rule experiment" — as Israeli and American officials call it in private — an eventuality that Mr. Rabin and his aides will be forced to take into consideration while planning their future moves.

At the same side, the bright side of the equation is that

Israeli criticism of Palestinian self-rule could contribute to raising PLO efficiency, something we as Arabs look forward to. Hopefully, the PLO leadership would rise up to the challenge of the day and prove the Israelis wrong.

It is totally a different kettle of fish when it comes to Jerusalem. Here, Mr. Rabin is obviously using Mr. Arafat as a smokescreen on several fronts, including the internal political tug-of-war between the Labour and Likud.

It was no coincidence that a Labour Party "masterplan" to divide the Holy City into religious "zones" was "leaked" to the Israeli media. The "masterplan," according to reports, calls for five Jewish, three Muslim and two Christian "zones" in Jerusalem without jeopardising the status quo and allowing Israel to continue to reign supreme and claim Jerusalem as its "eternal, indivisible" capital.

On the one hand, Mr. Rabin wants to establish in the international psyche that, regardless of the Sept. 13 declaration of principles Israel signed with the PLO in Washington, the Jewish state never entertained any serious consideration of discussing the status of Jerusalem on the basis of the historic and religious rights of Muslims and Christians in the Holy City. Instilling an inherent feeling among all those who are anxious to ensure that Muslim and Christian rights are respected in Jerusalem that Israel never accepted the concept of an arrangement based on those rights in the corner-stone of Mr. Rabin's strategy on the external front.

On the internal front, Mr. Rabin, mindful of the sentiments of the Israeli constituency, is using the war of words with Mr. Arafat over "ihud" to liberate Jerusalem to tell the Israeli voters that a Labour-led Israeli government would never let go of absolute control over Jerusalem and that, if anything, the autonomy arrangement with the Palestinians would only consolidate the Jewish state's designs and its claims to the Holy City.

That accounts for Israel's dedicated campaign to prevent the Palestinians from regaining autonomy from Jerusalem and new questions being raised over the very presence of self-rule administrators in the Orient House in Arab Jerusalem. Probably, the next Israeli move is to close down the Orient House and send a message to the electorate that self-rule or no



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Yemenis could use a truce; Israel's actions bely its words

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE DEVELOPMENT in Yemen and other Middle Eastern issues dominated topics discussed by the local Arabic press in the past week. Domestic affairs and pan-Arab questions were all correct.

Yemen is not in need of a river of blood and devastation to prove that Arab unity is feasible, said Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour newspaper.

The Yemenis should take a lesson from the civil wars that occurred elsewhere in the Arab World and should realise that war can only breed bated that does not contribute to unity or to solidarity, said the writer.

Should the war continue the situation in Yemen would be more or less like that in Yugoslavia and Somalia with foreign forces intervening in the country's affairs said the writer.

Saleh Ekkour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, criticised the Arab League for referring the Yemeni crisis to the United Nations, demanding that it interfere to stop the fighting there.

These contacts raise our anxiety and suspicions because they mean a call for the internationalisation of the situation in the Yemen, said the writer.

The Arab League's call to the United Nations is an invitation for the foreign powers to interfere in Yemen's internal affairs and would lead to the shedding of more blood, he said.

Foreign intervention is bound to be bloodier than that which occurred in Somalia and Yugoslavia and would never contribute towards safeguarding Yemen's unity, he said.

Huda Fakhouri, a columnist in Al Ra'i, compared the fighting in Yemen to the collapse of Ma'reb Dam in the pre-Islamic era, noting that the devastation is so heavy in both cases, thus retarding development for decades to come. The writer said that it is strange to see the Yemeni leaders resorting

to fratricidal conflict after learning of the outcome of similar strife that occurred in Lebanon, Somalia and Yugoslavia. But the writer added that the scenario in Yemen is definitely of the making of the major power assisted by their allies in their region and motivated by the foreign powers' interests in the Yemeni oil wealth.

Al Ra'i paper said in an editorial that a ceasefire to give the two sides a chance for dialogue is badly required and such truce can be by no means adversely affect Yemen's unity.

The truce is beneficial for the people of Yemen to take stock of what has happened to their country and to urge their respective leaders to opt for dialogue and end the war, said the paper.

The writer said he was optimistic that the success of this meeting would open the way for successes along the Jordanian-Israeli track and would pave the ground for a settlement of the Jordanian demand for the return of its occupied territories in the southern regions of the Dead Sea.

Salah Jarrar, a columnist in Al Ra'i, criticised the United States for supplying long range war planes to Israel, saying that this would further enhance Israel's aggressive capabilities in the region. The writer said that the Americans intend to keep the Jewish state the dominant force in the region. Any peace that does not entail stripping the Zionist of their war arsenal can have no chance to survive, he added.

Mazen Hammad, a columnist in Al Dustour, considered Turkey's decision to resume border trade with Iraq as a welcome development that should be copied by all Arab states. The writer said that they are signs in the United Nations that the sanctions on Iraq are to be lifted with Russia, France and China supporting the lifting of the embargo and it is hoped that the Arab states would take the lead in ending the sanctions and force the world to open up trade links with

the Iraqi people who have suffered for so long. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Health Organisation have issued a joint statement warning against the outbreak of wide scale famine in Iraq as a result of the continued embargo, said the writer, who added that the time has come for the Arabs and the world community to seriously discuss the lifting of the sanctions and end human suffering.

Nazih, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that the school are about to close their doors for the summer holiday sending away hundreds of thousands of students home and into the streets, with most of them expected to be idle for at least two months. Judging from past years experiences, idleness leads to trouble on the part of the youth who tend to cause disturbance to their districts in different forms or more serious incidents through quarrels in the streets where they play football and endanger themselves, said the writer. He said that the ministries of youth and education should join hands to find a suitable solution to this problem through opening school yards and recreational centres for the youths activities.

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Ahmad Husban, a columnist in Al Dustour, said domestic tourism is not successful largely due to the poor services at the tourist sites and the exorbitant prices charged by hotels. The writer said that many tourists and travel agents succeed in their business by despatching groups for a week's holiday abroad largely because they get reasonable rates. He said the cost of one day and night at a hotel in Aqaba is equivalent to three in any other Middle Eastern country. The writer suggested that special rates and package trips be worked out by the private and public tourism sectors to encourage Jordanians to visit sites in their own country.

A lethargic Hong Kong

By David Stamp
Reuter

HONG KONG — Five years ago, a million Hong Kong people stood up to be counted in support of those killed in China for demanding freedom and democracy.

But now few in the British colony will stand up and be counted even for their own freedoms as Hong Kong heads for reunion with China in 1997, democracy campaigners say.

"I sense a kind of lethargy arising from a feeling of inadequacy," said legislator Jimmy McGregor.

"Many, many in Hong Kong are now going over enthusiastically to... cooperating with China" he said. "Anybody who says differently gets clobbered or is out."

In 1989 the student protesters on Beijing's Tiananmen Square aroused strong support in Hong Kong. When the Chinese army crushed the protests and killed many on June 4, the colony went into deep shock.

A million people marched on China's de facto embassy in the colony and attitudes on both sides changed forever.

Beijing, which a decade ago promised Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy in 1997, began to regard it as a hotbed of subversion that needed to be tightly controlled after the handover.

Hong Kong people, on the other hand, began to lose faith in the "one country, two systems" formula enshrined in the 1984 Sino-British joint declaration. Those who could get a foreign passport, and candidates demanding democratic reform swept elections to the colonial legislature in 1991.

Five years after Tiananmen, the pro-democracy camp refuses to give up. Protesters regularly march to the local headquarters of the official Xinhua news agency, which serves as China's consulate in the colony.

Only this week, six television journalists resigned in protest against alleged self-censorship of a documentary on the Beijing killings. The gesture, which probably means their careers are over, worked. The ATV station said the programme would be aired.

But the effort to promote democracy is no longer a mass movement. Marches on Xinhua draw small crowds and a rally to commemorate the dead of 1989 is expected to attract at most 30,000 on Saturday, not a million. Only

12,000 came last year. Pro-democracy legislators are vocal but remain a minority because of Hong Kong's system of limited democracy, which favours pro-business conservatives opposed to confronting Beijing.

In a blow to Hong Kong morale, China has made it clear that when it takes over it will overturn Governor Chris Patten's reforms aimed at making the legislature more accountable.

Legislator Emily Lau says little momentum remains. "To some people (the memory) of course is important," she said. "But in terms of it becoming a driving force for the community in struggling for more democracy, in struggling to maintain the rule of law, our freedoms, I don't think it's there."

Rising living standards due to a boom in China have soothed worries for a while at least. "People feel the immediate future is still bearable, but of course if you ask them what's going to happen in two or three years' time, nobody knows," she said.

Tsang Yok-Sing, who leads the pro-Beijing Democratic Alliance Party, admits he wept after the June 4 killings. But he says what has happened since in China — an economic boom — is far preferable to the fate he says befall the Soviet Union, political liberalisation, economic collapse and disintegration of the state.

"I would... take a pragmatic view" he said. "At heart, many people in Hong Kong have a... feeling that it is fortunate that China has not gone the same way that Russia did."

But Mr. McGregor, who is increasingly at odds with the general chamber of commerce he represents in the legislature, bemoaned the failure of businessmen to offer China sound advice.

"People are becoming very reluctant to speak out," he said. "I wish people here would speak up more strongly, not necessarily against China but to say what Hong Kong people think."

But China, which has recruited 150 advisers in Hong Kong plus a committee to prepare for the handover, hears only what it wants to hear, he said.

"China will never select those who criticise," said Mr. McGregor. "(The advisers) will never provide a range of opinions, they will only provide one opinion."

Save water...
every drop counts!

Sales tax takes effect

(Continued from page 1)

vising the implementation of an economic restructuring programme for the Kingdom.

It also cleared the way for an IMF certification necessary for the government to launch debt rescheduling talks with the Paris Club.

Despite the government explanations, the overriding feeling among consumers is scepticism generated by the two-and-a-half-year debate on the controversial levy.

However, the analysts and officials expect the scepticism to make way for welcome once the tax takes hold and is translated into some price benefits in the market.

"If the market forces opt to pass on the three per cent cut to the ultimate consumer then there will be a slight decline in prices of those items on which the rate of consumption tax was 10 per cent," said Fadi Fanek, a noted economic analyst and columnist.

But it is unlikely that retail outlets might do so, business men say. "It is an unwritten rule in the market that consumer prices do not go down once they go up," said a importer and retailer. "No one will be willing to take a chance and reduce prices when there is a feeling in the market that things are not clear."

The comment reflected a widely-heard complaint that the sales tax law, which cleared Parliament and was enacted on June 1 with the issuance of a Royal decree last month, was ambiguous and that merchants did not know how to handle it.

The local press carried commentaries critical of the levy, mostly quoting business circles arguing that the government should clarify the law and how it is being applied.

But, according to Dr. Fanek and government officials, the law is relatively uncomplicated and that its implementation only involves importers and producers.

"Others have to do nothing under the new law but remain in the market place," he said. "But a group of importers and retailers are going to take a chance and reduce prices. They will be the ones to benefit from the new law."

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"Others have to do nothing

'Jerusalem issue could spark war'

(Continued from page 1)

and there are no procedures involving the consumer or the retailer," said Dr. Fanek.

Dr. Fanek agreed in general with officials that there is little justification to complaints of ambiguity, pointing out that the tax will be levied at the points of entry to the Kingdom on imported products wherever applicable and at the departure points to the local market at factories whose annual turnover exceeds JD 10,000.

Finance Minister Sami Gammoh has said that the government intends to release a booklet explaining how the tax would be levied at the various points of entry into the market. The department which used to handle the consumption tax at the Ministry of Finance will be in charge of the sales tax.

A government official who preferred anonymity said: "It is simply naive and arguing for argument's sake that the law is ambiguous since the procedures of collecting the levy are simple and straightforward."

The official said the sales tax would be collected on imported products as applicable along with the customs duties and other levies and the importer has to maintain a record of the levy to avoid double taxation for producers who use imported raw materials in their products.

Accounts will be adjusted on annual basis and those who paid the tax on imports will be allowed to write off the payments against the net sales tax they pay for the products leaving their premises to the local market. Exports are exempt.

Dr. Fanek said he had expected the government to give it one or two months before actually enforcing the sales tax. "But obviously the government thought that the law could be abused by some circles and could spark more controversies than it could handle, and hence the enactment of the law as of June 1," he said.

"I see in the agreement an end to bloodshed and a call for peaceful coexistence," he told the United Arab Emirates daily *Al Ittihad*.

"But we all should work to regain Jerusalem for the Muslims by all means. The continuation of the occupation of Jerusalem means Muslims will remain colonised," he said.

"I affirm that Muslims have not yet lost their sources of strength and they can recover what has been usurped from them provided their intentions are sincere."

(Continued from page 1)

considered positive elements in it.

When you have something in your hand, you don't need to catch it," he said.

There was no independent word on whether southern forces had succeeded in stopping the northern move to capture the village of Saber 18 kilometres north of Aden. Saber is the site of one of several water plants serving the city.

Southern defence ministry official Saleh Abdul Haq said Saber had been secured by a southern counter-attack and the northern advance party, which he said was composed mainly of non-Yemeni fighters, was in disarray.

Soldiers at a checkpoint five kilometres south of Saber were calmer than on Thursday and more confident in their talk of a northern setback. But they refused to allow journalists further north, saying the area was still dangerous.

Analysts said southern forces would want to turn back the flanking manoeuvre with

the same way.

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Rwanda rebels overrun refugee centre

NAIROBI (Agencies) —

Rwandan rebels have overrun the government-controlled area of Kabgayi where thousands of Tutsi refugees are crowded into camps, a Red Cross official said Friday.

"The RPF (Rwanda Patriotic Front) strolled in yesterday," the official said.

The official said he had heard of the capture from Red Cross colleagues working in Kabgayi, a former Roman Catholic seminary 50 kilometres southwest of the capital Kigali.

Thousands of mainly Tutsi civilians have sheltered in Kabgayi during the last eight weeks of fighting but government troops and Hutu death squads occasionally pulled refugees from the squalid camp and killed them, witnesses said.

Aid workers said on the weekend they were afraid that the retreating government forces and Hutu militias — who are blamed for butchering 500,000 people since the fighting started — would go on fresh killing sprees.

Meanwhile, U.N. soldiers came under fire here Friday while evacuating civilians trapped in hostile territory despite promises of safety from rebels and the army, a U.N. military spokesman said.

Aristide urges U.S. military action against

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Desires that sanctions can do the trick, exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide urged a U.S. intervention to depose Haiti's military leaders, in an interview published Friday in the Washington Post.

"The action could be a surgical move to remove the thugs within hours," Mr. Aristide said in the strongest statement to date in favour of military intervention.

Mr. Aristide doubted that the sanctions imposed on May 21 by the United Nations on Haiti would force the military leaders who deposed him in 1991 to step down.

"If we really want to save lives, something else should be done now," the former Roman Catholic priest said.

The sanctions, which cover everything except humanitarian aid, have been criticised for hurting the poorest Haitians the most, while the military capa and the well off appear to get by smuggling goods easily across the border from the Dominican Republic.

"Haiti is not the first case. When things were like that in another country, something was done. Why not in Haiti?" Mr. Aristide said recalling the U.S. invasion of Panama in late 1989 that deposed strongman Manuel Noriega.

Mr. Aristide, the first democratically-elected president in his country, said, however, that he was against a U.S. occupation of his country after an invasion.

"Once we do that, we could have the international community in the country within the framework of agreements we have already signed. Not in the framework of a military intervention," he said.

Once it became clear that the Haitian military would not honour a peace agreement they signed in July with Mr. Aristide and were determined to resist sanctions and other international pressure, U.S. President Bill Clinton said he did not rule out military action to restore democratic rule in Haiti.

But besides the difficulty of dislodging the top brass from power — Mr. Aristide said it would take a few hours, U.S. analysts are unsure what and how long it would take to help the country consolidate democracy.

Mr. Aristide set out a four-point beginning with the military action, followed by the arrival of international military experts to retrain the police and the army, then his own reinstatement as head of government, and ending with large-scale international development assistance for his country.

Reassuring those who wonder if he would turn against the United States if he were reinstated — his left-leaning policies during his six months in power distanced him somewhat from Washington, Mr. Aristide said he shared "mutual interests" not just

attack in the Rwandan capital, which is under rebel siege, Major Jean-Guy Plante said.

U.N. officials believed that a "local commander" from the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front or the army had ordered his men to fire on a convoy as the action was out of line with the stated policy of both sides, he added.

The convoy ferrying civilians to government-held territory from the Amahoro Stadium behind rebel lines was shot at while driving through the notoriously dangerous Qadafi Crossing on Kigali's northwestern outskirts, Maj. Plante said.

Nobody was hurt, but bullets hit one vehicle as the convoy drove towards government territory.

The convoy made it through, dropped off the civilians, and was then shot at again on the way back," Maj. Plante told reporters. In all, 2,000 people have been evacuated from Kigali, 250 of them Friday.

U.N. Deputy force commander Brigadier Henry Anyidoho went to investigate the shooting. But his armoured vehicle also came under fire near the Qadafi Crossing, where the rebels and the army were "engaged in a firefight," Maj.

Plante said. It was impossible to say which side had fired at the U.N. troops, he added.

"We have lodged strong protests with both sides, and further evacuation operations are on hold until we obtain new guarantees of security," Maj. Plante said.

The shooting came a day after rebel and army commanders meeting for U.N.-mediated truce talks agreed to cooperate with the U.N. in evacuating thousands of stranded civilians and distributing food, and provided assurances of safety for U.N. troops.

Another convoy meanwhile safely delivered 180 civilians trapped at the Sainte-Famille Church in a government-held area to the rebel-controlled town of Kabuga, about 15 kilometres east of Kigali. The army has repeatedly accused the rebels of firing at evacuation and relief convoys.

At the Sainte-Famille Church, up to 2,000 civilians including many minority Tutsis are encamped in squalor with little food and water in an area controlled by Hutu government forces, which are retreating as the mainly Tutsi rebels advance.

Many people sheltering

there complained that Hutu militiamen were raiding the church at night, abducting and killing men, and raping women. Extremist Hutu militias have been blamed for much of the bloodletting sparked by the April 6 death of President Juvenal Habyarimana.

Up to half a million people, mostly Tutsis and Hutu opposition supporters, have been hacked, bludgeoned, burned or machine-gunned to death. "We were badly treated by the Interahamwe (militias)," said Marie-Josée Murebwayire following her evacuation to Kabuga after six weeks at the church. "They used to come at night to take boys to kill and girls to rape," said Ms. Murebwayire, 30, a mother of four whose husband was hacked to death in the first few days of the bloodbath.

When white U.N. trucks delivered 180 evacuees to Kabuga, many hugged and kissed relatives in scenes of wild rejoicing as they were reunited after two months of terror and uncertainty. But Ms. Murebwayire and her children stood silent and alone.

"All our relatives have been killed," she said. "My brother is in America, how can I go there?"



A British soldier guides a U.N. helicopter into a landing zone situated in a field outside the central Bosnian town of Zepce. British U.N. forces are currently patrolling the area which straddles areas controlled by the now allied Bosnian Croat (HVO) and Bosnian Army forces (AFP photo).

U.N. urges Serbs to save Geneva talks

GENEVA (R) — The U.N. special envoy in former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, met Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic Friday to press for a pull-back by Serb forces from the U.N. "safe area" of Gorazde.

Mr. Akashi, forced Thursday to call off ceasefire talks because of a Serb refusal to withdraw from the U.N. exclusion zone around the Muslim enclave, was hoping to salvage the peace bid by persuading the Serbs to comply.

As the two men met, Mr. Akashi's spokesman said there had been some Serb withdrawal from Gorazde.

But he said he saw little chance of the talks starting Friday even if the Serbs did pull out.

"There has been some withdrawal and it's a significant withdrawal," spokesman Michael Williams told reporters.

"Nevertheless as of eight o'clock this morning there still remained armed Serb elements within the three-kilometre zone in and around the town of Gorazde."

Mr. Williams added: "As far as the numbers are concerned, frankly it doesn't matter if there's one or 101, there would still not be the basis for going ahead with the talks."

Bosnian Muslims and their new Croat allies, who have made ground against the Serbs in recent weeks, both say that any ceasefire should not last more than one or two months, to prevent Serb territorial gains being consolidated.

They also say any ceasefire imposed without progress first on Bosnia's future ethnic map might not be respected.

In the meantime, international mediators were forced to bang around Geneva with no negotiating to be done — reminiscent of a similar boycott in Geneva last year while Serb forces lingered on the strategic

Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo.

Meanwhile, the Clinton administration has joined its European allies and Russia for the first time to forge detailed peace proposal for Bosnia based on a near-even split of land between the contending forces, the Washington Post reported Friday.

Washington had resisted backing specific outlines for a territorial solution between a Muslim-Croat Federation and a breakaway Serb force, although U.S. officials recently approved in principle a 51 per cent to 49 per cent division of land with the Muslims and Croats receiving the bare majority, the newspaper said.

Washington now was formally supporting that plan, to be presented at scheduled peace talks in Geneva, according to the Post.

Quoting an unidentified State Department official, the newspaper said concern that talks were going nowhere and that the war would drag on prompted Washington to propose the "de facto map" for partition with details left to the warring factions to work out.

This is do-or-die for the Muslims, Croats and Serbs," the official was quoted as saying. "We basically offer a solution, but it is up to them to decide whether to accept."

Bosnia's president protested Thursday over the presence of a Serb liaison officer at U.N.-controlled Tuzla Airport, demanding its return to government hands unless he is removed.

"Without our knowledge UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force) has allowed a Serb liaison officer to come to the airport," President Alija Izetbegovic told reporters in Sarajevo.

S. Africa plays down whites-only referendum

JOHANNESBURG (R) —

The South African government Friday played down the possibility of a referendum for white Afrikaners seeking a white Africa.

Government spokesman Joel Netshitenzhe acknowledged that during an interview with Reuters, President Nelson Mandela had mentioned a referendum as one of the mechanisms that could be used to unite the people of South Africa.

"He went further to say the issue of mechanisms still need to be discussed. This shows that he was just giving an example. Nothing else but an example," Mr. Netshitenzhe told Independent Radio 702.

He did not say what other examples of possible mechanisms were.

In Thursday's interview, the first with an international news organisation since his inauguration as the country's first black president, Mr. Mandela told Reuters: "We want to allow Afrikaners themselves to express themselves on this Saturday."

Asked if a whites-only vote or referendum would be used to test Afrikaner desires, Mr. Mandela said:

"The whites, the Afrikaners will have to vote, because if we throw the matter to the country as a whole, they will have an excuse and say no, this is a matter that has been decided by communities other than ourselves.

"We want everybody to have no doubt in his or her mind that we will do what the community wants us to do.

"If the Afrikaner community is a whole, or the majority, is in favour of a Volkstaat (homeland), our view will take one form. But if the majority of the Afrikaners say they do not want a Volkstaat, then we will take a different view," he said.

Pro-apartheid right-wing parties boycotted April's historic all-race elections, demanding a separate homeland for Afrikaners.

Hoping a peaceful solution would be found to assuage right-wing fears about black majority rule following last month's historic elections, Mr. Mandela had met several white separatist leaders.

But as details of the poll leaked out Thursday night, Prime Minister John Major —undaunted— launched into his most forthright electioneering so far, saying he was unrepentant about criticism of the European Union and insisting

Europe had gone wrong in recent years.

Conservative strategists may find some consolation in the fact the poll was carried out between May 25 and May 30 before Mr. Major launched his series of attacks on European Union integration.

They are reported to believe in his concept of a multi-paced Europe in which member states progress at different speeds offers the best hope of persuading Tory supporters to vote.

Mr. Major late Thursday pledged to campaign for an open Europe, which would not be the remote preserve of an elite circle of politicians and bureaucrats" and where regulation would be dramatically reduced.

Stressing that he would not moderate his approach to Europe, he said: "I will be critical where I must. Difficult if I have to be. I would rather speak up and put the case for what I know to be right for Britain than clink glasses in agreement with something that

is wrong."

He repeated his condemnation of the social chapter of the Maastricht Treaty, saying: "The social chapter sounds fair. But what is fair — or moral — about making it harder for people without jobs to get back into work?"

Although the surge in Labour support may prove to be a temporary response to John Smith's death, Tory party managers are reported to fear Labour will receive another boost with the expected election of shadow home secretary Tony Blair to the leadership next month.

The Gallup poll carried out before the withdrawal Wednesday of shadow chancellor Gordon Brown, one of Mr. Blair's main rivals in the contest, found that Mr. Blair had nearly double the support of his nearest rival.

But the prospect that Mr. Blair could be elected unopposed brought the first signs of disunity in Labour's ranks since the loss of its leader John Smith, who died last month.

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese minister said Friday that Japanese employers still believed men did a better job than women, and he urged employers to break the mould by hiring female graduates.

Economic Planning Agency Minister Yoshio Terasawa said Japanese women received unequal treatment from employers. "Of course there are a lot of good women students around," Mr. Terasawa told a news conference. "I suspect employers still have outmoded ideas that boys do better jobs than girls do."

Mr. Terasawa said he had told his cabinet colleagues Japan lagged behind in that it was still arguing about equal rights. "It's a waste. I regret that foreign banks and securities companies are snatching away good women graduates while Japanese firms are giving up on them," said Mr. Terasawa, who came from the securities industry. The cabinet has set up a working group to help women students

Anti-IRA chiefs killed in U.K. helicopter crash

LONDON (R) — Leaders of Britain's intelligence war against the IRA were killed Thursday when 29 people died in a helicopter crash in thick fog on a remote Scottish headland, police said.

The giant twin-rotor Chinook, flying Belfast to a security conference in the Scottish city of Inverness, exploded in a fireball after slamming into a hillside on the remote Mull of Kintyre.

Rescue workers found one man alive in the flaming wreckage on the mist-shrouded headland but he died soon afterwards.

"There were bits of bodies everywhere," said mountain hiker Russell Ellacott, one of the first witness on the scene of the crash in western Scotland.

The Chinook is the main military workhorse used by British armed forces.

A spokesman for its U.S. manufacturer Boeing told BBC Radio Friday: "I think the Chinook safety record is a good one."

The Royal Air Force's 30 Chinooks are at present being sent to Philadelphia in a long-term modernisation refit programme.

The crash site was sealed off in a tight security cordon Friday as investigators sifted through the widely dispersed wreckage to piece together the flight's last fatal moments.

"These people were right at the heart of intelligence. These were the men who made the special branch tick," he said.

But detectives ruled out sabotage and Scotland's Stratclyde Police Chief Leslie Sharp said: "At this time there are no

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indians struggle to beat killer heat

NEW DELHI (R) — A camel felled by heatstroke lies dead on the street. Vultures cluster around the elegant fountains of New Delhi desperate for a drink. Northern India is sizzling in some of the highest temperatures the region has felt for decades, and meteorologists see no respite soon. At least 161 people have died of heatstroke so far as the mercury climbs up to 50 degrees Celsius. (122 Fahrenheit) in some areas, particularly in parts of desert Rajasthan and central Madhya Pradesh states. The capital, New Delhi, saw its hottest day in half a century early this week at 46C (114.8F) and has baked almost daily at around 43 to 44C (109-111F), three degrees (nearly five degrees F) above normal for this time of year.

Streets normally choked with traffic are strangely quiet after midday as residents hide indoors from the scorching sun. Those without the refuge of a roof — vendors, rickshaw pullers, the homeless — hunt out any scrap of shade. Some even huddle in the shadow of the cows that wander the city streets.

5,000 killed by famine in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (R) — More than 5,000 people have been killed by famine or related diseases in a single province of Ethiopia over the past two months, state television said. Regional administrators in southern Omo province disclosed the figure during a visit by Prime Minister Tamirat Layne Thursday, the broadcast added. More than a million Ethiopians, mostly in the north of the country, perished in a famine 10 years ago that commanded global attention.

Once it became clear that the Haitian military would not honour a peace agreement they signed in July with Mr. Aristide and were determined to resist sanctions and other international pressure, U.S. President Bill Clinton said he did not rule out military action to restore democratic rule in Haiti.

But besides the difficulty of dislodging the top brass from power — Mr. Aristide said it would take a few hours, U.S. analysts are unsure what and how long it would take to help the country consolidate democracy.

Mr. Aristide set out a four-point beginning with the military action, followed by the arrival of international military experts to retrain the police and the army, then his own reinstatement as head of government, and ending with large-scale international development assistance for his country.

Reassuring those who wonder if he would turn against the United States if he were reinstated — his left-leaning policies during his six months in power distanced him somewhat from Washington, Mr. Aristide said he shared "mutual interests" not just

But troops were driven out one month later after

Sports

Van Basten decides against World Cup

NOORDWIJK, Netherlands (R) — AC Milan striker Marco Van Basten has decided against joining the Dutch World Cup squad for the finals in the United States this month, a Dutch Soccer Union spokeswoman said Friday.

Van Basten was invited to become the 22nd player in the Dutch squad after Rudi Gullit left the Dutch training camp Monday without offering any reason.

Dutch coach Dick Advocaat has called in Anderlecht striker John Bosman in place of the three-times European player of the year.

Van Basten, who has not played since May last year,

said Thursday he had told Advocaat he was ready to replace Rudi Gullit.

"I told him I am all right," Van Basten said. "If Gullit hadn't left the team, I would have stayed behind at Milan's training. Given that this opportunity has come up, I'll go and train in America instead."

But according to Dutch media AC Milan has since urged Van Basten not to go as it was still too early to play at the top level. The club said that they were loyal to him after his two ankle operations and expected him to return that loyalty by not risking another ankle injury in the United States.

Pacers are one victory away from NBA finals

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (AFP) — Reggie Miller is dominating basketball games the way Michael Jordan once did.

As a result, the surprising Indiana Pacers are one victory away from the National Basketball Association (NBA) finals.

"He just moved up to the next level," Indiana guard Byron Scott said of his back-court mate. "People are starting to realize what kind of player he is. Now all he has to do is do it one more time."

Miller scored 25 of his 39 points in the fourth quarter, rallying Indiana from a 12-point deficit to a 93-86 victory over New York in game five of their semi-final series.

"Everything was happening slow motion," Miller said. "I could see what defenders were going to do before they did it."

"That was a Michael Jordan game," New York coach Pat Riley said. "That was a Michael Jordan quarter."

The Pacers, who had never won an NBA playoff series before this year, can eliminate the Knicks with a triumph here

late Friday. New York must win to even the best-of-seven series and force a deciding game. Either way, the NBA finals start Wednesday in Houston.

"We're stunned. The Knicks are stunned. I know I'm stunned," Indiana forward Antonio Davis said. "Nobody expected this. But here we are."

Most stunned was New York's Patrick Ewing, who guaranteed two months ago his club would win the title. After being kept to a career-low one point to game three of the series, Ewing has watched the Pacers win three straight.

"It hurts, but it doesn't break our spirit," Ewing said. "We still believe in ourselves."

Miller is becoming more fearless in NBA advertising. His friend with Knicks' fan and film director Spike Lee is also drawing attention. The Knicks will not respond to Miller's taunts, as he gives them to Lee in his court-side seat. Miller made choking motions and several choice comments to Lee during his run of five 3-point shots in the fourth period Wednesday.

Carson poised for rare golden double

EPSOM, England (R) — Willie Carson is poised to repeat one of horse racing's rare doublets — winning the Epsom Derby and Oaks in the same season.

After a thrilling success on Erhab in Wednesday's Derby, Carson partners the talented but highly-strung Bulaix, 13-8 favourite for Saturday's Fillies' classic.

Carson did the Derby-Oaks double in 1980 on Henbit and Bireme and 14 years on, at the age of 51, there is nothing to suggest his powers are on the wane.

His performance on Erhab will dwell in the memory, the ex-champion conjuring one of the best finishes to a classic for years.

Carson, who complained long and loud about the number of no-hoppers in Wednesday's race, will be happier with the start and going down by just a short lead to La Meninas.

Provided Bulaix does not become too stirred up in the preliminaries, she has the class and form to win, although she faces some substantial challenges.

French-trained Bonash (11-4) kept her unbeaten record in the group three Prix Vanteaux at Longchamp last month, showing a fine turn of speed to settle the issue over nine-furlong (1.9 km) trip which was far shorter than that for which

Wind in Her Hair (7-1) is unbeaten in her two races this season and trainer John Hills will be hoping for some compensation following Broadway Flyer's disappointing Derby run.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Maradona threatens World Cup walkout

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Diego Maradona has again threatened to withdraw from Argentina's squad which is finalising preparations for the World Cup with a match against Croatia in Zagreb Friday. Press reports here said for the third time in four days Maradona had threatened to quit the side, this time following a row over the selection of another player. Speaking in Vienna Thursday, the Argentine captain said he was tired of the "lack of organisation" of team selection. Maradona's latest remarks follow a row over the omission from the squad of Dario Franco, the 29-year-old midfielder who plays for Real Zaragoza in Spain.

McCallum is temporary champion

MEXICO CITY (AFP) — The World Boxing Council (WBC) has officially named Jamaica's Mike McCallum as their interim light heavyweight champion, but the WBC is still leaving the door open to Australian Jeff Harding. Harding was stripped of the title for failing to put it at stake since Dec. 3, 1992. He was injured in training shortly before he was due to face American, Randall Yonker in Las Vegas March 4, and withdrew from the fight.

FLATS FOR SALE

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Bruguera, Berasategui to stage all-Spanish French Open final



Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (R) and Conchita Martinez kiss after their French Open semi-final

Thursday which Sanchez won 6-3, 6-1 (AP photo)

Pierce looks forward to historic win

PARIS (R) — Emerging talent Mary Pierce bids to become the first French Open for 27 years when she meets Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in Saturday's final.

Twelfth seed Pierce, who delighted the home fans by demolishing world number one Steffi Graf in straight sets in a semifinal clash Thursday, said she was not afraid of second

Bruguera said his five-set victory over Courier last year was more difficult.

"I controlled the match better this time," he said. "I was feeling I had more power than him. I could move him around. He could not attack as well as last year, and that gave me more confidence."

"At times he pressed me. More often than not I just made loose mistakes," said Courier, the No. 7 seed.

"What I lacked in the defining moments of the match was aggression. I didn't play really badly, but I didn't play well."

Bruguera reached the semi-final without losing a set. Courier, though not as dominant, played well in a four-set victory over top-seeded Pete Sampras in a quarterfinal Tuesday.

Australian Leslie Turner in the 1967 final.

Graf, who was widely fancied to win her fourth title on the Paris clay in the continued absence of Monica Seles, summed up Pierce's abilities thus: "She plays faster than Monica and she hits the ball just as hard."

Pierce, whose rise has come as good news for women's tennis, badly wanting somebody to challenge the big names, will need all her strength to move past gritty Sanchez Vicario, in the Paris final for the third time.

Saturday's match will feature the only two women to have beaten Graf this season. But while Sanchez Vicario needed three tough sets to overcome the German 4-6 7-6 7-6 in the Hamburg final last month, Pierce took just 77 minutes to blow Graf off court.

"My game has improved in many ways," she said after trouncing compatriot Conchita Martinez 6-3 6-1 in the semifinals. "Now I can attack and be more aggressive."

"I know everybody will want Mary to win but I don't care," she added. "I'll just try to play everything together and hopefully, things will go my way."

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Sale June 10, Abu Hanifa St., BLD. 35 (Two blocks south of Amra Hotel).

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Announcement

The Regional Office of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is looking for suppliers of food commodities: rice, lentils and vegetable oil.

Potential suppliers can introduce themselves by fax, number 694556, within one week of the date of this announcement

Apartment For Rent

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The first is a second floor with an area of 200 square metres. It consists of three bedrooms, saloon, living, dining rooms, large kitchen, and three bathrooms. The second is a ground floor consisting of two bedrooms, sitting and dining rooms, spacious kitchen, veranda, separate entrance with small garden and garage. Each apartment has independent central heating and telephone. Location: Western Shmeisani, Abdul Halim Al Nimir St., near Bial Mosque. Building No. 24. Pls. call 885593 or 664256

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSH

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DIRECT THE DEFENSE

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
A K J
Q 10 7 5 2
9 8 2
J 4

WEST
EAST
9 8 3
Q 9 5
K 7 5 3 2
A 8 6

SOUTH
Q 9 4
6 4
A K J 6 4
Q 10 9

The bidding:

South West North East

1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♦

"Gentlemen of the jury:

"This is a case of aggravated assault brought by my client, Mr. East, against Mr. West, former bridge hand of Mr. East.

The alteration followed:

"A hand played at the club, where the plaintiff and the defendant were defending a contract of three no trump.

"With nothing to guide the defendants, West elected to attack with a club. East won the first trick with

the ace and returned partner's suit.

Since the West hand was empty, the defendant started to allow declarer to win the trick to maintain communications between the East and West hands. When diamonds proved no worse than 4-1, declarer claimed nine tricks.

"My client suggested that West win the trick with the king and shift to a heart to defeat the contract. West countered that there was no way to tell how the cards lay and on a different distribution that defense could present declarer with the contract. The conversation grew increasingly heated, and eventually West let fly a perfect right cross that resulted in my client ending on the floor on the seat of his pants."

"It is the opinion of this jury that Justice has no place in the game of bridge and East is awarded damages in the sum of \$1.

The reason for this is that in the jury's opinion, East was responsible for the defense.

At trick two East should have cashed the king of hearts and then returned a club.

That would have made it easy for

West to rise with the king of clubs and return a heart to defeat the contract."

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TIME

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Car: 1992 Suzuki Sidekick (Vitara), 4-door, 4-wheel drive, 6,500 km, air conditioning, elec. power package, duty not paid.

JD 11,000. Computer: 386SX-25 IMB-comp.,

4MB RAM/12

Rw Jordan is keen on Arab economic blocs, but no solid Syria-Lebanon move yet

By Ayman Al Safadi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

The of AMMAN — Even though Jordan supports economic integration among Arab states, no concrete steps have been taken to form an economic bloc grouping the Kingdom

capital Ki

Thousa

"Economic integration is a

Jordanian requirement, but

the Kingdom will not enter

into economic or political

groupings before preparing

the solid foundations for them

from the first," said a source, close to

Aid to the government and the Royal

weekend Court.

Agence France Press re-

ports Thursday that Jordan,

Syria and Lebanon had been

discussing the formation of an

economic cooperation council

similar to the now defunct

Arab Cooperation Council

came up

Egypt, Yemen and Iraq. The

ACC, which reportedly

antagonised some Gulf states,

collapsed immediately after

the eruption of the Gulf crisis

in 1990.

The agency quoted unidentified

political sources in Jordan

as saying the proposed alliance

would aim at "countering the

repercussions of the

Palestinian-Israeli economic

agreement" on the economies

of the three countries.

The Palestine

Organisation (PLO) signed an

economic agreement with

Israel in Paris in April and the

deal was ill-received by Syria

and Lebanon and invited the

condemnation of some economic experts in Jordan.

Jordan's past experiences with regional alliances rendered it cautious when discussing the formation of such groupings, the source said. The source said the formation of the council was floated by Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Boue who was briefed by Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabil Berri on discussions the latter held on the issue with Jordanian parliamentarians during his visit here last month.

But the discussion with Mr. Berri did not go beyond the expression of some Jordanian parliamentarians of their belief in the viability of economic cooperation with Lebanon, sources said.

Other informed sources said Syria had floated the issue with the Kingdom recently, but Jordan reiterated its position that solid groundwork had to be carried out before translating such ideas into reality.

"How could you have economic integration with Syria which does not have an ambassador in Jordan yet and where Jordanian television transmission is jammed?" the source said.

"Syria still has strong ties with allies who would not support such a project," said the source in reference to Gulf states which worked against the Arab Cooperation Council.

"But since the intention is there, technical committees

could start working to discuss practical steps for realising the grouping," said the source, pointing out that Jordan believes in joint Arab action not only on the economic arena but also on the security and political ones.

The source said that economic integration with Syria and Lebanon would be governed by regional and international politics and Jordan is aware of the limit to which Arab-Arab relations could go.

Jordan and Syria took large steps towards economic integration in the late 1970s but the Kingdom was then hampered by neighbouring countries which stopped their aid to the Kingdom in anger, the source said.

"Neither Jordan nor Syria believe in taking short cuts" in implementing projects of such magnitude, added the source.

The joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee will hold talks on economic cooperation in Amman on Monday. In addition to Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaf will attend the meeting in what was seen as an indication of the political significance that the talks would have.

Sources said it is possible that ways of dealing with the economic impact of the PLO-Israel deal on the two countries could be discussed during the meeting, but they will not amount to discussing the formation of an economic alliance.

AMMAN — Doctors at the

Crown Prince, Princess Sarvath return home

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath returned home last night after a private visit to Britain, during which they became grandparents for the first time.

The Crown Prince and Princess Sarvath, who began the visit on May 7, attended the birth of twin grandchildren, Zein Al Sharaf and Tareq, born to Her Royal Highness Princess Sunayyah and her husband Nasser Judeh, who is director of the Jordan Information Bureau in London. The twins were born on May 9.

While in Britain the Crown Prince met with eminent British personalities, including the Duke of Edinburgh, gave a lecture at a

(Continued on page 5)



Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath are received upon their return home on Friday by members of the Royal Family and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali (Petra photo)

COLUMN

Taiwan women MPs involved in wrestling match

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan women legislators screamed, traded slaps and kicks and pulled each other's hair in a fight during a National Assembly session Friday. Su Chih-Yang of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) walked up to the rostrum and slapped Kuo Si-Chun of the ruling Nationalist Party whom she accused of insinuating that she had sex immorally. The slap triggered a brawl in the assembly for the fourth day this week. Nationalist deputy Lin Chang-Ju rushed to Mr. Kuo's rescue and jumped on Ms. Su. These two women grabbed each other's hair and repeatedly slapped each other in the face while Ms. Kuo stood by stunned and broke into tears. Two other women deputies joined the fracas, trading kicks and wrestling. Ma Ai-Chen of the Nationalist Party fainted amid the fighting and was rushed to a nearby hospital. Ms. Su had earlier demanded an apology from two male Nationalist deputies for peeking at her pants when she was staging a sit-down protest in front of the podium in the assembly chamber Tuesday. Ms. Kuo later insinuated that Ms. Su had invited the attention of the men by wearing a short skirt.

A specialist who had worked for five years at the University of Jordan Hospital, for example, would get a JD 1,234 salary per month, including incentives. The same doctor from a Ministry of Health hospital, hired according to the 1977 system, would get JD 684 (with 50 per cent incentives could reach JD 895) but JD 491 (JD 606 with incentives) if hired after 1988.

(at the time) 43 per cent in the case of a specialist and 38 per cent in that of a general practitioner.

The demands sparked a

strike about two years ago and

continues to be an issue over a

two-tier system of granting

allowances, putting the doctors

into the category of "before

1988" and after.

According to the paediatrician who spoke on condition of anonymity, "we will go to work now only, but will not work between 10 a.m. and noon; we will only treat emergencies if needed."

The doctors are demanding

salaries equivalent to those of

physicians working at the Uni-

versity of Jordan Hospital and

military hospitals in the King-

dom.

A list of demands and orga-

nisation matters provided to

the Jordan Times mentions

"improvement of the financial

situation of the Ministry of

Health doctors that would en-

able them to lead a dignified

life and would prevent good

doctors from leaving govern-

ment hospitals."

According to a study pre-

sented in 1991 by the then

minister of health, Mamoud

Al Ahbabi, to the prime minister,

the gap between the pay received by

the ministry's doctors and

those working at military or

university hospitals, reaching

Clinton honours heroes of Italian campaign

NETTUNO, Italy (Agencies)

— President Bill Clinton on Friday commemorated World War II allied landings in Italy with a pilgrimage to the final resting place of 7,862 U.S. troops and a meeting with veterans of the 1943-1944 Sicily-Korea campaigns.

Mr. Clinton, the first U.S. leader born after the war and first post-war commander-in-chief without military experience, flew from Rome by helicopter to the U.S. cemetery just east of the Anzio beachhead where 100,000 allied and German troops died.

Under an overcast sky, the 47-year-old president solemnly strolled among the white marble headstones, stopping to decorate some of the graves with tiny American flags.

Later, speaking in front of a sculpture of an American soldier and sailor standing with arms draped around each other's shoulders, he saluted those who fought to free Italy and Europe from Nazi tyranny 50 years ago, saying they fought "to save the world."

He singled out U.S. senators Bob Dole, Ernest Hollings, Daniel Inouye and Calborne Pell — who all saw combat in Italy — and his own late father, William Blythe, a tank mechanic who wrote to a niece from the front that blazing guns had stripped all the leaves from the trees.

"Fifty years later, we can see the difference their generation has made. America is strong, freedom is on the march, here in Italy the glorious trees, like the country, have been restored to life," Mr. Clinton said.

The official Antara news agency said that in Sumbermanjing, on the southern coast of Malang, a total of 38 buildings, fish farms and boats were damaged or swept by waves, but there were no fatalities.

The Televisi Pendidikan Indonesia private television network said that minor damage was reported in surrounding areas.

Antara said that a 25-man search and rescue team men had been dispatched to the stricken area from Malang and were still searching for victims as well as evacuating the survivors late Friday.

Mr. Dole is the Senate Republi-

cian leader. Mr. Hollings, Mr. Inouye and Mr. Pell are Democrats like Mr. Clinton.

Mr. Dole's right shoulder was shattered by German machine gun fire, and Mr. Inouye lost his right arm to a grenade.

Mr. Clinton spoke to some 1,000 veterans and guests on a hot, hazy day. Italian jets spewing green, white and red smoke — the colours of the Italian flag — flew low over the site after Mr. Clinton spoke.

Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi also attended with Mr. Clinton.

"It is inevitable that we ask ourselves why — why war, why destruction and why death?" Mr. Scalfaro said. The answer

Clinton, Pope discuss Mideast,

page 2

(Continued on page 5)

At least 164 killed in waves sparked by Indonesian quake

JAKARTA, Indonesia (Agencies) — Ocean waves triggered by a strong earthquake hit villages along the coast of Indonesia's eastern Java early Friday, killing at least 164 people and destroying hundreds of homes, officials said.

The doctors are demanding salaries equivalent to those of physicians working at the University of Jordan Hospital and military hospitals in the Kingdom.

Furthermore, heated debates over Amman's municipal council took place when deputies and the government argued over whether or not members of Amman Government should be elected or appointed by the people.

Legislators finally reached a compromise whereby they agreed that half of the council would be elected while the other half and the governor should at least have a tawjih certificate.

The draft law, which was introduced to legislators in early January, has since been passed back and forth between the Lower House and the Senate after differences over the qualifications of Amman's mayor, which, according to Senators, should not be conditional.

Legislators finally reached a compromise whereby they agreed that half of the council would be elected while the other half and the governor should be appointed or appointed by the people.

The dismissed mayor, Yasir Omari, was launching a campaign for the next municipal council elections when he was surprised by the dissolution of eight municipal councils, many of whose members are Islamists, because "it (the government) does not like to see Islamists in a position of power."

The deputy asserted that, according to the present municipalities law, it is illegal to dissolve any elected council and that such measures were against the Kingdom's interests.

According to the present law, municipal councils should be elected. However, a draft law, which has caused controversy in the government and legislature, calls for all municipal councils to be dissolved by Jan. 1, 1995 and the holding of municipal elections on July 1.

articles, and that both houses will have to take a two-thirds majority vote on the draft law in a joint session before it can be approved and sent to His Majesty the King to be signed into law.

Mr. Jaber said that by getting rid of municipal councils now the government had "thrown into turmoil the harmony of operation within municipalities whose members were democratically elected or appointed.

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President did not r to restore Hati.

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— Mr. A point be arrival of experts and the reinstatement scale in ment to what fr Aristed

— Reass der if he United S stated — cies dur and people with complaints in his spartan office overlo

ing the Mediterranean. Gen. Nasr is visibly